

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A unitary cue tip cap for use with a cue stick having an end with a tip having an outer diameter, the cue tip cap comprising:

a generally cylindrical sleeve having ~~a first end and~~ an open second end and a first end having an outer surface and an inner surface formed to be spaced a short distance away from the tip of the cue stick when used, the sleeve ~~having an inner surface~~ having an inner diameter capable of closely accommodating the outer diameter of the tip of the cue stick;

a knob; and

means for attaching the knob to the outer surface of the first end of the sleeve, a person holding the knob when pushing the open second end of the sleeve over the tip of the cue stick and when pulling the sleeve off the end of the cue stick.

2. (Original) The cue tip cap claim 1 wherein the cylindrical sleeve has an inner surface that is slightly frusto-conical in shape.

3. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 2 wherein the inner surface is formed with a plurality of longitudinal grooves extending generally between the first end of the sleeve and the open second end of the sleeve.

4. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 2 wherein the inner surface is formed with a plurality of longitudinal splines extending generally between the first end of the sleeve and the open second end of the sleeve.

5. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 1 wherein the knob has a cylindrical cavity formed with receiving threads, and the means for attaching the knob to the first end of the sleeve

comprises a threaded stud having a first end and a second end, the first end of the stud having been embedded in the first end of the sleeve and the second end of the stud being threaded into the cavity in the knob.

6. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 1 wherein the knob has a cylindrical cavity formed with receiving threads, and the first end of the sleeve has an opening, and the means for attaching the knob to the first end of the sleeve comprises a screw having a threaded shank and a head, the screw being inserted into the sleeve through the open second end of the outer sleeve, and the threaded shank screwed through the opening in the first end of the sleeve and into the cavity in the knob, the head of the screw being held inside the sleeve.

7. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 6 which further comprises a small cushion held in place against the head of the screw inside the sleeve.

8. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 1 wherein the knob has a cylindrical cavity formed therein, and the means for attaching the knob to the first end of the sleeve comprises a cylindrical threaded portion formed as part of the first end of the sleeve and extending therefrom, the cylindrical threaded portion being threaded into the cavity in the knob.

9. (Original) The cue tip of claim 1 wherein the knob has a cylindrical cavity formed therein, and the first end of the sleeve has a cavity formed with receiving threads, and the means for attaching the knob to the first end of the sleeve comprises a threaded stud having a first end and a second end, the first end of the stud being threaded into the cavity in the first end of the sleeve and the second end of the stud being threaded into the cavity in the knob.

10. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 1 wherein the first end of the sleeve has a cavity formed with receiving threads, and the means for attaching the knob to the first end of the sleeve comprises a cylindrical threaded stud extending from the knob, the stud being threaded into the cavity in the first end of the sleeve.

11. (Currently amended) A unitary cue tip cap for use with a cue stick having an end with a tip having an outer diameter, the cue tip cap comprising:

a generally cylindrical inner sleeve having ~~a first end and~~ an open second end and a first end having an inner surface formed to be spaced a short distance away from the tip of the cue stick when used, the sleeve having an inner surface having an inner diameter capable of closely accommodating the outer diameter of the tip of the cue stick;

a threaded stud having a first end and a second end, the first end of the stud being embedded in the first end of the inner sleeve and the second end of the stud extending outwardly from the first end of the inner sleeve along a longitudinal axis;

an outer sleeve having a first end with an opening and an open second end, the sleeve having an inner surface formed to accommodate the inner sleeve;

a knob having a cylindrical cavity formed with receiving threads;

the inner sleeve being inserted into the outer sleeve through the open second end of the outer sleeve, and the second end of the stud being threaded through the opening in the first end of the outer sleeve and then threaded into the cavity in the knob; a person holding the knob when pushing the open end of the inner sleeve of the cue tip cap over the tip of the

cue stick and when pulling the cue tip cap off the end of the cue stick.

12. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 11 wherein the cylindrical inner sleeve has an inner surface that is slightly frusto-conical in shape.

13. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 12 wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve is formed with a plurality of longitudinal grooves extending generally between the first end of the inner sleeve and the open second end of the inner sleeve.

14. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 12 wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve is formed with a plurality of longitudinal splines extending generally between the first end of the inner sleeve and the open second end of the inner sleeve.

15. (Original) The cue tip cap of claim 11 wherein the outer sleeve is made from a hard plastic material and the inner sleeve is made from a deformable material.